DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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"FIGHT FOR GERMANIC EAST"

W. Germany Steps Up Land-Grab Propaganda

Semi-official organisations in West Germany have recently stepped-up their demands for a revision of Germany's eastern frontiers. The organisations concerned, called "Landsmannschaften", or associations of Germans from various areas in central and eastern Europe which are not within the present German frontiers, are directly subsidised by the West German Government, and West German Ministers are frequent speakers at their rallies.

On the next page we reproduce some of the wild claims made by the numerous newspapers published by these organisations of "Refugees and Expellees" as they describe themselves.

Where do these "refugees" come from, and what does their loud-mouthed propaganda mean for the peace of Europe? The territory in eastern Europe claimed by these bodies falls into three distinct classes:

1. Territory which was part of Imperial Germany under the Kaiser, but which became part of Poland end of World War One. This includes Eastern Silesia, the Poznan district of Poland, and the "Polish corridor": all of these areas have always had an overwhelmingly Polish population.

2. The "Oder-Neisse territories". This large area east of the Oder-Neisse rivers was granted to Poland under the Potsdam Agreement. The relevant portion of the Potsdam Agreement stated: "The three heads of government agree that, pending the final determination of Poland's western frontier, the former German territories east of a line (the line is then defined) shall be under the administration of the Polish state". A further clause of the Potsdam Agreement stated: "The three Governments ... recognise that the transfer to Germany of German populations ... remaining in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary will have to be undertaken." Under this clause the German population in the area east of the Oder-Neisse line were transferred to Germany proper with the full cooperation of the western allies.

3. The "Sudeten" Area. This is an area on the western borders of Czechoslovakia. It was never in recent history a part of Germany, but was grabbed by Hitler under the Munich Agreement. Before the nazi grab a large proportion of the German minority living in this area had rallied under the slogan "We want to go home to the Reich". After 1945 they were then sent to Germany under the clause of the Potsdam Agreement quoted above.

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The opponents of the Oder-Neisse frontier in West Germany cling desperately to the sentence in the Potsdam Agreement which states: "The final delimitation of the western frontier of Poland should await the peace settlement", but at the time this sentence was approved by the heads of government of the USA, Britain and the Soviet Union in 1945 every sensible person assumed it to mean exactly what it said: that the actual course of the frontier on the ground should be finally delimited. That would mean that minor revisions might conceivably be made to avoid cutting a village in two, or allotting the ownership of bridges over the river Oder. The real finalisation of the frontier was accomplished more than ten

(cont. on next page)

(from "Daily Express", London)

POCKET CARTOON
by OSBERT LANCASTER

"If my memory's not at fault, we should be hearing about Anschluss any moment now."

(Note for readers under 40: *The Saar was incorporated in Hitler's Germany in 1935. Three years later, in 1938, Hitler grabbed Austria; this was called the Anschluss.)*

"REFUGEE" PAPERS IN W. GERMANY

Our picture shows a small selection of the newspapers published in West Germany by the "Landsmannschaften", the organisations of Germans who used to live in areas of central and eastern Europe which form part of Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Soviet Union.

The papers shown are:

1. **"Die Pommersche Zeitung"** – The Pomeranian Newspaper – which calls for the integration in "Greater Germany" of Pomerania, today the Polish province Pomorze.

2. **"Wegweiser für Heimatvertriebene"** – The Guide for Those Driven from their Homeland" – which claims to speak for all Germans expelled at the end of the war from eastern Europe.

3. **"Das Ostpreußenblatt"** – The East Prussian Newspaper – which calls for the German conquest of territory now forming part of the Soviet Union and Poland.

4. **"Sudetendeutsche Zeitung"** – Sudeten German Newspaper – which claims for "Greater Germany" the Sudeten area of Czechoslovakia, grabbed by Hitler under the Munich Agreement of 1938.

5. **"Schlesische Rundschau"** – Silesian Observer – with the official programme of grabbing for Germany all of the Polish province of Slask, including that part incorporated in Poland after World War One.

What They Say . . .

"We, all of us, Americans, western Europeans, free Germans, must declare quite firmly that we can no longer accept the status quo, present situation of Europe."

"Der Schlesier", February 18th

"Compatriots! We must not weary or lose hope. We must fight so that the Germanic East, that Pomerania, should come once again under German administration."

"Die Pommersche Zeitung", April 25th

"We can never recognise the Oder-Neisse frontier, despite de Gaulle and other renunciators. We cling with fortitude to our target."

"Die Pommersche Zeitung", June 6th

"The 'Landsmannschaft Pomerania' does not aim to be just an association of those expelled from their homes: it must become a fighting body for re-winning our homeland. The associations of refugees and expellees have become the cadre for re-unification."

Dr. Eggert, spokesman of "Landsmannschaft Pomerania" on June 13th in West Berlin

"Freedom for Silesia means nothing more nor less than that the present situation in Silesia must be regarded as illegal; and that the re-unification of Silesia with Germany must be demanded and won."

"Der Schlesier", June 24th

"There can be no proper European policy of productive force as long as Germany is not re-established in its traditional frontiers, even if these frontiers lie too far to the east in the eyes of people like Eisenhower, Macmillan or de Gaulle."

"Der Schlesier", April 8th

"It is not a question of law, but a question of might. The question of the validity of the Munich Agreement (which is simply the question as to whether the Sudeten area should belong to the re-created German Reich or not) will be settled by might."

Lodgman von Auen, convicted war criminal, in "Sudetendeutsche Zeitung", April 30th

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years ago, when nearly all Germans living to the east of the frontier were sent back to Germany, and many millions of Poles moved in to till the soil, run the factories, and dig the coal. If the western powers had seriously considered reversing this frontier decision, then they would obviously never have cooperated in the movement and resettlement of the German expellees.

President Harry Truman of the United States, in a coast-to-coast broadcast on August 9th 1945, after his return from the Potsdam Conference, stated:

"The new area in the West was formerly populated by Germans, but most of them have already left in the face of the invading Soviet Army. We were informed that there are only about 1,500,000 left. The territory that the Poles are to administer will enable Poland better to support its population. It will provide a short and more easily defensible frontier between Poland and Germany.

(cont. on next page)

Settled by Poles, it will provide a more homogeneous nation. The action taken at Berlin will help carry out the basic policy of the United Nations towards Poland."

Mr Ernest Bevin, then British Foreign Secretary, speaking in the House of Commons on August 20th 1945, stated:

"There was no escaping the course adopted so that the economy of the region might be restored and enabled to make its full contribution as soon as possible to provisioning a devastated Europe."

It should be noted that the final delimitation of the Oder-Neisse frontier was completed by an agreement between the German Democratic Republic, which occupies the whole western side of the frontier, and the Polish People's Republic in June 1950.

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It is obvious that the claims for frontier revision made by semi-official and official quarters in West Germany are a threat to European peace. For this reason, the draft peace treaty for Germany, tabled by the Soviet Union on January 10th and one of the subjects for discussion at the Geneva Foreign Minister's Conference, made specific reference to this problem. The relevant clauses of this draft peace treaty stated:

Article 8: The frontiers of Germany shall be those existing on January 1st 1959 ...

Article 9: Germany shall renounce all claims to former German territories (east of the Oder-Neisse line) which are under the sovereignty of Poland ... Germany shall renounce all claims to the former city of Koenigsberg and the area around it, which are under the sovereignty of the USSR.

Article 10: Germany recognises as invalid the Munich Agreement ... and declares that it will always recognise territory of the former so-called Sudeten region as an integral part of Czechoslovakia.

Article 17: Germany pledges itself not to permit the emergence and activity of ... revanchist parties and organisations demanding a revision of Germany's frontiers or making territorial claims on other countries.

Adenauer Appoints New W. German President

Dr Heinrich Luebke, West German Agriculture Minister, was elected West German President in West Berlin on July 1st. Dr Luebke, widely-unknown Christian Democrat, was strongly backed for the post by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer. He will take office on September 15th in succession to Theodor Heuss, bumbling professor who has been West Germany's president since the separate West German state was created by the western allies in 1949.

In the first poll of the electoral assembly, composed of the West German Parliament and representatives of the West German provinces, no candidate won a clear majority. In the second poll Luebke won with 526 votes over Social Democrat Carlo Schmidt (386 votes) and Free Democrat Max Becker (99 votes). *(Biographical notes on the new West German President are given in the Berlin Notebook on page 124 of this issue.)*

The Government of the German Democratic Republic filed a formal protest with the western powers against the holding of the presidential election in West Berlin. The protest, dated June 30th, stated that the staging of the election ceremony in West Berlin was a provocation directed against Democratic Germany and other European states. It ran counter to the attitude of the western powers at the Geneva Conference, where they had declared that West Berlin did not form part of the territory of the German Federal Republic. The Government of the German Democratic Republic expressed the hope that the Geneva Conference would reach a solution of the West Berlin problem which would make such acts of provocation impossible in future.

Commenting on the election on July 3rd, the East Berlin newspaper „Neues Deutschland", central organ of the Socialist Unity Party, stated:

"Bonn has ignored the serious warnings uttered by the Governments of the GDR and the USSR, and has conducted the presidential election in West Berlin, on the territory of the GDR ... At the beginning of this assembly, the chairman, Herr Gerstenmaier, declared provocatively that Berlin 'is a province of the Federal Republic'. He said 'Berlin' without any limitation, thus making it clear that the whole affair was a well-considered act of provocation.

"The members of the electoral assembly who came to Berlin by train or car saw for themselves on the state frontiers of the German Democratic Republic where this frontier really lies. It was only because the GDR intends to use peaceful methods of ending West Berlin's role as a centre of provocation that the People's Police on the frontier did not send these gentlemen home again. We do not intend to allow provocateurs to provoke us: but this does not alter the situation that the whole of Berlin, in principle and in international law, forms part of the territory of the GDR.

"By declaring that West Berlin is a 'province of the German Federal Republic' Herr Gerstenmaier has set himself at legal odds with the international agreements, and even the West Berlin Constitution of 1950. Article 87 of this constitution states clearly that West Berlin is not a province of the Federal Republic. On May 26th 1952 the High Commissioners of USA, Britain and France, in a letter to Adenauer, stated that 'in view of the international situation' West Berlin would not be regarded as a province of the Federal Republic. French Foreign Minister Couve de Murville stated at Geneva on May 22nd this year that West Berlin was not part of the Federal Republic, and even Willy Brandt (West Berlin mayor) stated in the West German Parliament on February 24th 1955 that 'under international law Berlin does not belong to the Federal Republic'.

"The western powers have their reasons for denying West Berlin the character of a province of the Federal Republic, since they are clinging to the so-called Four Power Status of 1945; and now Herr Gerstenmaier has made a mess of their arguments ...

"The government in Bonn wants to ignore world public opinion, and launch illegal provocations. The unfree city of West Berlin is the most dangerous landmine which can be used against the Geneva Conference, against international negotiations, against a peaceful solution of the German problem. That is why the most urgent task is the normalisation of the situation in West Berlin; and normalisation means the creation of a demilitarised West Berlin Free City."

DELIVERING THE GOODS

Marketing Problems in a Socialist State

By Frederick Ford

"We have solved many of the main problems of running socialist industry: we are well on the way to cracking the problem of socialist agriculture: but we have only scratched the surface with regard to retail trade", a leading official of the Central Planning Commission of the German Democratic Republic told me in a recent conversation.

If you look at the official statistics in Democratic Germany, this view of retail might seem to be unduly pessimistic; after all, three quarters of all retail trade turnover is in the hands of socialised shops and cooperative stores; but anyone with any practical experience of shopping here knows that retailing is still a very weak link. In salesmanship, in window-dressing, in goods packing, in the maintenance of proper supplies of everyday requirements all too many shops and stores lag very far behind world standards. It is no exaggeration to say that in many shops the slogan would appear to be "The Customer is Always Wrong".

There are many reasons for this unsatisfactory state of affairs. Two of the main reasons are easy to define. Firstly, until fairly recently, retailing has been a fairly neglected field. It was so important to get industry and agriculture going again after the war damage, and to get them moving on a healthy socialist basis, that the great majority of go-ahead, efficient people at all levels went into industry or agriculture; trading was left in a Cinderella position, and often had to make do with the inefficient and unenthusiastic people.

Secondly, until relatively recently, the German Democratic Republic, in common with most of the socialist countries, has been operating on a shortage economy. There was such a great unfulfilled demand for consumer goods of every sort, that it was possible to sell almost anything without any recourse to salesmanship, good packaging, friendly service, or anything of this sort.

Today the period of the shortage economy is over for good — though some specific goods like TV sets, washing machines and cars will be in short supply for a year or two to come — and the entire network of wholesale and retail trade will have to be re-jigged to meet the new demands.

A few figures will show the size of the problem facing the trading organisations. In 1958, the shops of Democratic Germany sold over the counter goods valued at 38,000 million marks. By 1965, they will have to handle goods valued at 66,000 million marks.

(It may be important to stress that none of the this huge increase will be marked off price increases in the goods handled; prices here are falling slowly but steadily.)

The major part of this great rise in goods sold will be in industrial consumer goods, since food sales are already reaching the upper limits of volume. The table in the box on this page shows that in most important fields of food consumption Democratic Germany is up to the West German mark, and in several fields is already well above it.

It will be quite impossible to handle this big increase without a thorough re-organisation of the retailing service, and first steps in this direction will be hammered out by a big trade conference planned for later this year. A long memorandum outlining some of the tasks for this conference, drawn up by the Ministry of Trade and the Economic Commission of the Socialist Unity Party, was published on June 30th. This memorandum will be studied by everybody active in the wholesale and retail trade network, from store directors down to apprentice sales-girls, and their proposals and amendments will be dealt with by the trade conference.

The memorandum makes a number of hard-hitting criticisms of the present state of affairs, and calls for an ending of the present shortcomings, including the following:

a) Self-satisfaction in the Ministry of Trade and subordinate bodies.

b) Managerialism, and neglect of proposals made by consumers and persons employed in the trading network.

c) The fact that the trading bodies do not insist on the factories producing goods of a quality up to world standards.

d) The neglect to utilise properly the facilities and know-how of privately-owned retail outlets.

e) The lack of consideration for the customer.

The memorandum points out that the goal of the German Democratic Republic is to overhaul the standard of living of West Germany, as expressed in the pro-capita consumption of goods, by 1961, and that efficient retailing is an integral part of the standard of living.

By 1961, the memorandum suggests, the following goals should be reached:

1. All consumer goods offered for sale should have reached world standards of quality.

2. The re-organisation of the wholesale trade network, and the equipment of the main warehouses with mechanised goods-handling machinery.

3. A further specialisation of retail outlets. This will entail proper co-ordination between the state trading organisation (HO), the cooperative stores, and private retail trade.

4. At least 50% of foodstuffs, and 25% of industrial consumer goods should be sold in self-service stores.

5. Great improvements in sales facilities in country districts.

How Much People Eat

Here for comparison are figures of the annual consumption per head of some of the main foodstuffs in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), the German Federal Republic (West Germany), and the United States. The figures for the two German states are for the year 1958: the figures for the USA are for 1956.

	East Germany	West Germany	USA
Butter	26.2 lbs	16.3 lbs	8.7 lbs
Margarine	22.9 lbs	26.7 lbs	8.2 lbs
Total fats	59.5 lbs	55.5 lbs	44.6 lbs
Meat	112.0 lbs	115.2 lbs	166.8 lbs
Fish	28.7 lbs	26.7 lbs	10.1 lbs
Sugar	66.4 lbs	61.7 lbs	97.7 lbs
Eggs	181	201	369

Further long-range targets were suggested for 1965, the year when the present Seven Year Plan will be completed. These targets include the following:

1. Complete and growing superiority over West Germany in all fields of supply.

2. Retail trade should have better labour productivity, quicker turnover and lower costs than in West Germany.

3. At least 80% of foodstuffs and 50% of industrial consumer goods should be sold through self-service stores.

It will be noted that the memorandum lays great stress on the development of self-service stores. Two or three years ago, self-service stores were almost unknown in Democratic Germany; there were many reasons, one being that the continuance of food rationing made self-service food stores impracticable, another being the lack of the necessary automatic cash registers, and the poor packaging of foodstuffs. Probably equally important was the idea that a self-service store had to be a super-market, demanding very big capital investment.

Practical experience in the past year or two has shown, however, that even a small corner store can profitably be converted to a self-service shop with a minimum of investment, and hundreds of such shops are now being converted. In East Berlin alone the number of self-service shops will grow to over 700 in the course of 1959. The change-over has been speeded by the fact that full employment in Democratic Germany has made it increasingly difficult to recruit shop assistants, and the self-service system enables shops to be run efficiently with a much smaller staff.

Well-Stocked Store

Self-service grocery store in East Berlin
700 such shops are scheduled for this year

Other measures to make shopping easier are also proposed in the memorandum. It is pointed out that the present network of shops is very largely a legacy of capitalism, with an abnormal concentration of shops in the town centres, and poor shopping facilities in the suburbs. Far-reaching measures will have to be taken in the coming years to adjust this situation. There will also be a great increase in shopping facilities in the countryside.

(Note: These proposals are very good, but most of them are still proposals. In another article planned for this paper in July 1960 we shall report on the progress made up to that date.)

More Come East

West Germans are moving to Democratic Germany at the rate of nearly 7000 monthly, it was officially announced in East Berlin on July 8th. In the first six months of 1959 more than 40,000 Germans moved their homes from West Germany to the German Democratic Republic, a 36% rise on the figures for the same period of 1958.

In the same period the number of persons leaving Democratic Germany for West Germany has sunk by 30%, the official announcement said. West German reports claimed that 74,000 persons had gone West in the first six months of this year.

Win a New Reader

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

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THE GREAT COVER-UP

A Report by Sefton Delmer in the London "Daily Express"

I hope our consuls in North-West Germany are reporting fully to the Foreign Office on a remarkable political campaign being conducted in their area by the new Nazi "Reich Party".

For the leaders of that hitherto unsuccessful group believe that they have at last found the formula that is going to bring them in the votes — and the money too.

Two men are the authors of the formula. One is a wooden-legged, ex-fighter ace named Hans-Ulrich Rudel. The other, a dashing, six-foot nobleman named Adolf von Thadden.

They hope the formula will ultimately launch them on the same road to power taken 30 years before by another Adolf and another ex-fighter ace — a fellow called Hermann Goering.

The most telling point in their programme is: Rid Germany of the gang of corrupt politicians and bribed officials who have reduced her Administration to the level of a South American banana republic.

There's a lot in what they say. I am staggered by the degree of dishonesty, graft, and fixing tolerated in private and public affairs in what is held up to be one of the most reliable bastions of Western democratic probity.

Let me assure you I am not easily shocked by graft. I was in Germany in the late nineteen-twenties to report on the great corruption scandals on whose crest Hitler was swept to power. I saw the French Cabinet overturned in 1934 by the Stavisky scandal.

The difference is that in West Germany today the Government and the regime so far remains unshaken by the continued scandals. And what scandals!

In the debate before the Federal Parliament a fortnight ago, Adenauer's ex-stormtrooper Minister of the Interior Gerhard Schroeder admitted that in various Federal Ministries, from Adenauer's own Chancellery and the highly-acclaimed Foreign Office down to the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, no fewer than 60 civil servants had been sentenced for taking bribes between 1954 and 1958. A further 46 cases were still pending. And this did not include civil servants belonging to the various Federal States, where the number is even higher.

In what is called the private sector of commerce and industry, the number of convictions for fraud and embezzlement, Schroeder revealed, had more than doubled between 1950 and 1956.

Even Ministers are involved. During the recent election campaign in the Rhineland-Palatinate the Reich Party's Rudel and Thadden made great play on the fact that Peter Altmeier, the Rhineland-Palatinate Premier of Adenauer's Christian Democrat Party, has used his position to buy a house from his own Government at less than half its market value.

They also pilloried Dr. Wilhelm Nowack, Minister of Finance in the same Government, who had resigned after it was revealed in the news magazine Spiegel that he had used his official position to make profitable share deals and to escape taxation.

The managing aristocracy of Germany's industrial concerns, big and small — who until quite recently were able to offset against tax their subscriptions to party political funds — have long made it a practice to canvass the support of influential Ministers, politicians, and officials with presents and free entertainment.

Refrigerators, electric kitchens, shares, and stock exchange tips are the favourites.

But call girls also come into it. They played a prominent part at a shooting party staged by agents seeking valuable Defence Ministry contracts.

But the latest and most ingenious technique is the paid lecture. If an industrial group wants to win the favour of a Minister or an official, they invite him to give them a talk. The fees for such lectures are known to have run as high as £1500 a time.

Chancellor Adenauer's own former A.D.C., 48-year-old Dr. Hans Kilb (present job: security chief with Euratom in Brussels), is at this moment facing a charge of having used his influence on behalf of the Mercedes Benz motor firm, whose directors had generously placed a big blue Mercedes sports convertible at his disposal free of charge.

Kilb is alleged to have arranged for the Chancellor to use Mercedes cars — good publicity for the firm — and also to have got Adenauer's help in securing for Mercedes Benz an order for 750 motor buses from the Shah of Persia.

But most important cause of all is Adenauer's naive readiness to cover his favourite Foreign Office man, Ambassador Herbert Blankenhorn, although he has been sentenced to imprisonment for libel against a fellow diplomat.

He has intervened in the proceedings against Dr. Kilb in a manner that in Britain would be condemned as contempt of court. All of which, of course, encourages more graft ...

DAILY EXPRESS, July 2nd 1959

Communist Veteran Dies

German Communist veteran Arthur Ewert died on July 3rd in East Berlin at the age of 68.

In his youth Ewert emigrated to Canada, where he was sentenced to a long jail term for his activities in the labour movement. Returning to Germany after World War One he soon became prominent in the Communist Party, which he represented in the Reichstag.

After Hitler came to power, he emigrated to Brazil where he became a close associate of Luis Carlos Prestes, Communist leader. When he was imprisoned and tortured by the Brazilian authorities there was a world-wide campaign for his release. He was able to return to Democratic Germany in 1947, but he had been so mishandled in prisons that he was no longer able to play an active part in political life.

His wife, Elise Ewert, was deported from Brazil to Germany during World War Two, and killed by the nazis in Ravensbrueck concentration camp.

Doctorate for Linus Pauling

Prof. Linus C. Pauling, renowned American chemist and holder of the Nobel Prize, was awarded an honorary doctorate by Humboldt University, East Berlin, on July 4th.

In a speech at the university following the award of the title, Professor Pauling called for an ending of all nuclear tests, and for the admission of the German Democratic Republic and China to the United Nations.

Nazis in the News (1)

Huge Pension for Hitler Minister

A Nazi Secretary of State and convicted war criminal is now receiving from the West German Government a pension of over £ 2000 yearly.

The war criminal is Dr Curt Rothenberger, war-time Secretary of State in the nazi Ministry of Justice. On December 30th 1947 an American Military Court in Nuremberg sentenced Rothenberger to seven years imprisonment on charges of "perverting justice to serve the political aims of the nazi state." He was released prematurely in 1950.

A clear picture of the attitude of this man who receives a huge pension from the West German state is given by a letter signed by Dr Rothenberger in April 1943, found in the files of the nazi Ministry of Justice. The letter states:

"A Jewess, after the birth of her child, sold her mother milk to a children's doctor, without telling her that she was a Jewess. The milk was used to feed German children in a clinic. The accused was brought before the court and accused of fraud. The recipients of the milk were defrauded because milk from a Jewess cannot be regarded as nourishment for German children. The disgraceful attitude of the accused also constitutes an insult. I shall clarify with the Health Leader the racial-hygienic aspects of the case."

Nothing is recorded of the fate of the woman concerned, or of her baby.

Nazis in the News (2)

SS Murderer "Did His Duty"

A West German court has refused to extradite a convicted nazi war criminal to Holland on the grounds that he was only doing his duty when he shot Dutch patriots during World War Two.

The decision was handed down at the end of June by the Celle Upper Provincial Court in the case of SS man Willem Polak. Polak shot three Dutch hostages in Arnhem in 1944, and was sentenced to death for the crime by a Dutch court in 1949. The sentence was later reduced to life imprisonment. In December 1952 Polak and other war prisoners broke out of jail, and sought asylum in West Germany. Since that date the Dutch Government has been trying to obtain his return to serve his sentence.

The Celle Court, latest West German court to consider the case, ruled that the shooting of hostages "is a recognised method of preventing the people of an occupied country from taking action against the occupation power", and that Polak had therefore only been doing his duty.

(N. B. The decision of the Celle Upper Provincial Court is very understandable in view of the fact that the presiding judge of this court is Dr Otto Woehrmann, who passed many death sentences against anti-fascists as military judge during the nazi period. On December 5th 1941 his superior officer submitted a testimonial on his work stating: "Dr Woehrmann is a member of the National Socialist Party, and his political attitude provides a guarantee that he would support the Fuehrer and the National Socialist state unconditionally at any time."

Details of the careers and crimes of 800 nazi judges now back at work in the West German courts are given in the book "We Accuse", a copy of which, in English, will be sent on application to any reader interested.)

World Premiere for US Opera

A new American opera was given its world premiere on the television service of the German Democratic Republic on July 9th. It was "The Corner", composed by Allan Green, with libretto by Lewis Allen, known for his lyric "The House I Live In".

The new opera, a work of social criticism written in the jazz idiom, was presented in Democratic Germany under the title "The Brooklyn Story".

Vets in Berlin

A delegation of the British Ex-Service Peace Movement visited Democratic Germany in July on the invitation of the Committee of Anti-Fascist Resistance Fighters.

A Letter To "The Times"

Sir, – Dr. J. W. Bruegel, whose letter you published on June 25, dismisses the statement that "Adenauer's Germany wants nuclear weapons to back a policy of 'liberating' east Germany", as "re-echoing only the propaganda stories spread by the German Communists".

Here are two witnesses, who even Dr. Bruegel will hardly venture to dismiss as Communist propagandists, for the view that the Adenauer regime wants to rearm western Germany not only to take over east Germany and restore the old social order there (an operation referred to in Adenauer language as freeing "Middle Germany" from Communist slavery), but also to repartition Poland.

Dr. Adenauer, wrote Walter Lippman in the "New York Herald Tribune" of July 18th 1955, made it clear during his visit to Washington that spring, that he was opposed to any German settlement now, because: "His policy is to be armed by the United States and then, with the loyal support of the whole western alliance, led by the United States, to negotiate a German settlement with the Soviet Union. Dr. Adenauer believes that in two or three years, when there is a German army in N.A.T.O., his position will be strong enough to obtain unification with frontiers that are much better than Potsdam."

"It was only the day before yesterday", observed Mr. Aneurin Bevan in the House on December 4th 1958, "that Dr. Adenauer told his own Party that he was not ready for a peace treaty, that he was not ready yet to discuss the future of Germany with the Russians because they were not yet ready to raise the problem of Germany's eastern frontiers. Could anything be more provocative than that in existing circumstances? What is Dr. Adenauer waiting for? . . . Is he waiting until Germany's armed forces are stronger so that they can take a more independent line? . . .

"If it is too early yet to discuss the settlement of the frontiers between Poland and Germany, so long after the war, when is the time ripe? Is it when all the German formations are established and the Americans are there with nuclear warheads waiting to provide them with them should the need arise?"

Yours faithfully,
Sydney Silverman,
K. Zilliacus,
Stephen Swingler
House of Commons

"The Times", July 2nd 1959

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

As you may know, the Brandenburg Gate, a huge archway of masonry rather like the Marble Arch in London or the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, is the city symbol of Berlin. By a quirk of post-war geography it stands almost exactly on the border between East Berlin and West Berlin.

Curtain

As a result of its placing, right on the invisible and non-existent Iron Curtain, it has become one of the main attractions for rubber-neck trips, both from the east and west. Almost any time of the day during the tourist season, you can see buses parked on both sides of the gate, disgorging loads of people from Medicine Hat, Ithaca and Dwygyfylchi (on the western side) or from Omsk, Plock and Szombathely (on the eastern side).

Of course, tourists in Berlin can pass quite freely from one half of the city to the other, and many do, but others prefer to remain on "their" side, and peer through the archway into the unknown other world.

Peepers

Just as it happens, there is remarkably little to see. Peering through the archway westwards, you can see nothing much except the pleasant trees of the Tiergarten, West Berlin's big and beautiful park; peering in the other direction you see the long vistas of the partly-ruined Unter den Linden. Neither of the views gives the peeper much of an idea of how the other half lives.

Since this is the silly season, let me offer some suggestions to the tourist offices in both halves of Berlin on how to provide the guests from all over the world with their money's worth. Since tourists generally only see what they expect to see anyway, I suggest that the East Berlin authorities should organise, perhaps at quarter-hourly intervals, a straggling crowd of starving and haggard prisoners, fettered together, being driven off to the salt-mines. To add a further note of realism this team could perhaps sing the Song of the Volga Boatmen. There should be no difficulty about providing the personnel or costumes: the choir of prisoners from Beethoven's "Fidelio" from the State Opera just down the road could do the job on their spare afternoons.

The show on the western side might be a little more difficult to organise. Fat men in top hats marked with dollar signs could form the first act of the pageant, but it would probably be more difficult (and more expensive) to hire Mr Elvis Presley to undulate and Mr Liberace to beam for the second act.

Anyway, I offer the idea, free gratis and for nothing to the appropriate authorities.

Having let my imagination run riot for a few paragraphs, I had better now state quite firmly in block capitals: THIS IS ALL SUPPOSED TO BE A JOKE.

Beat Band

Just after bashing out the lines above, I had reason to drive through the Brandenburg Gate. When I arrived on the other (western) side I nearly ran down a bunch of oddly dressed people capering about in the middle of the road. For a moment I feared that someone had purloined my as-yet-unpublished idea for brightening up tourist traffic. I soon ascertained, however, that they were members of the Hazy Osterwald Sextet, a very competent West German dance combo which makes a point of those rather grim forms of musical entertainment involving funny hats and false moustaches.

They were there posing for the photographers and trying for a bit of free publicity. Which they are accorded herewith.

Concerto

Since this seems to be turning into a Brandenburg Gate Concerto, let me round it off with the rather unusual sight I ran into there a Sunday or two ago. Suddenly, through the central arch (which in the bad old days used to be reserved exclusively for use by the members of the royal family) there emerged, slightly mellow and wearing straw hats, a bunch of young men waving a banner with the strange device "Victory to the Kickers". Under the benevolent but slightly puzzled eyes of the People's Policeman on duty there, they marched down the Unter den Linden, and then happily back again to West Berlin. I was puzzled myself, until I realised that that afternoon the football team Offenbach Kickers was playing in the West German cup final in West Berlin. (They lost.)

But all this may give you some idea that the "Iron Curtain" is neither so impenetrable nor so grimly serious as you may have thought.

Building Character

The West German papers have been hard put to it in the past week or two trying to turn Dr Heinrich Luebke, West German President-elect, into a notable character. He is undoubtedly the dimmest of all the assembly of rather dim characters who surround Chancellor Adenauer, and it is precisely for this reason that Adenauer chose him for the post. On the day of the election a British correspondent commented to me, "Mickey Mouse could get elected if Adenauer gave his blessing".

Extensive research in the reference books turns up practically no information about Dr Luebke, except for the fact that he was born in 1894, was trained as a surveyor, and that his hobby is "literature", whatever that may mean. More by accident than design Hitler put him in jail for a few months in 1933 (the only slightly favourable point anyone has been able to discover about him), but he quickly made his peace with the nazis after his release, and lived out the rest of the nazi era working quietly as a municipal official in Berlin.

Upstairs

In 1953 he became Adenauer's Minister of Agriculture, apparently because nobody else wanted the job, and he now falls painlessly upstairs into the post of chief stooge in the West German state. Although very dim, it would be a mistake to regard him as harmless. On March 16th this year, he told a press conference in South Africa:

"The native problem here is in good hands. In other parts of the continent they have not yet made good use of the South African experience in this field." And on June 24th in a TV interview, he said: "I have not abandoned hope of seeing the re-establishment of our former Reich."

The "New York Times" stated on July 2nd: "The new President is... liberal, progressive and a 'good European' in the sense of Chancellor Adenauer's pro-western and European policies."

So now we know that support for Apartheid and for the re-establishment of the Kaiser's Reich makes you liberal and progressive in the eyes of the "New York Times".

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